

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0934

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL NATO PO UK
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION; UK

REF: (A) STATE 34978 (DTG 160123Z FEB 77), (B) LONDON 2738
(DTG 161907Z FEB 77)

1. AMBASSADOR DREW ON REF A FEBRUARY 18 TO BRIEF UK PERM
REP KILLICK ON US PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE FORCE
MODERNIZATION AND TO SOLICIT UK SUPPORT. KILLICK REPLIED
THAT THE US WAS "PUSHING AT AN OPEN DOOR." THE UK HAD
ALREADY HAD CLOSE BILATERAL CONTACT WITH PORTUGAL ON THE
SUBJECT. KILLICK NOTED THAT THE NAVY WAS THE AREA WHERE
THE UK FELT IT COULD MAKE THE BEST CONTRIBUTION, PROVIDED
THAT SUCH A CONTRIBUTION WOULD NOT HAVE TOO GREAT A
FINANCIAL IMPACT. HE SAID THAT THE UK HAD OFFERED A MINE-
SWEEPER TO PORTUGAL LAST SUMMER, FOR WHICH PORTUGAL WOULD
HAVE HAD TO PAY OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, BUT AHT
THE PORTUGUESE HAD TURNED THIS OFFER DOWN BECAUSE THEY
WERE NOT SURE THEY COULD AFFORD TO OPERATE IT. IN
RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT, IF THE UK
COULD OFFER EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE IN MINESWEEPING, THE
BELGIANS AND DUTCH MIGHT BE ABLE TO JOIN IN TRAINING,
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KILLICK RESPONDED THAT THE UK HAD CONSIDERED THIS ALREADY
AND PUT THE IDEA TO THE PORTUGUESE, SO FAR WITHOUT A
RESPONSE.

2. KILLICK REITERATED THE UK'S INTEREST IN HELPING
PORTUGAL TO THE EXTENT OF ITS FINANCIAL CAPABILITY, BUT
CAUTIONED THAT LARGE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE
FOR THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE WERE SIMPLY NOT IN THE CARDS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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